

NOTES ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF *CATOPYROPS FLORINDA* (BUTLER) (LEPIDOPTERA: LYCAENIDAE)

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Abstract

Southern records of *Catopyrops florinda* (Butler) are reviewed and subspecies *C. f. halys* (Waterhouse) is newly recorded from Sydney, New South Wales.

Introduction

Waterhouse (1903, as *Nacaduba ancyra* (C. Felder)) recorded the Australian distribution of the speckled line-blue, *Catopyrops florinda* (Butler), as 'Richmond River to Cape York'. Later (Waterhouse 1928, as *N. a. florinda*), he recorded it from 'Stanwell Park in January (G.M. Goldfinch)' and 'larvae on [*Trema aspersa*] at Port Macquarie in April'. Still later (Waterhouse 1932, as *N. a. florinda*), he noted it to be 'common from the Manning River to Townsville, one specimen has been caught near Sydney'.

Waterhouse (1934, now as *N. a. halys* Waterhouse) noted that 'this race is found along the coast from the Manning River to Mackay with Townsville specimens not quite typical. One specimen has been caught near Sydney, where its food plant grows in a few suitable localities'. Common (1964, as *C. f. estrella* (Waterhouse & Lyell)) gave the distribution as 'N.T., Cooktown to Wollongong'. Common and Waterhouse (1972, 1981, as *C. f. halys*) recorded it from 'Townsville to the Illawarra district, common north of the Manning River'.

Braby (2000) recorded *C. f. halys* 'from Byfield, Qld south to Stanwell Park, NSW, extending inland to the Carnarvon Range, Qld' and noted that 'it is much rarer south of the Manning River'. Braby (2004) amended this to 'less common south of the Manning River, NSW'. Atkins (2004) recorded it from the Hunter Valley, NSW.

Discussion and recent observations

The specimen recorded from 'near Sydney' by Waterhouse (1932, 1934) is, in fact, the male from Stanwell Park, collected by G.M. Goldfinch in January 1913 and now in the Australian Museum collection, together with a female collected at Womeral, NSW by T. Guthrie, also in 1913 and a female collected at Toronto, NSW by G.A. Waterhouse on 7 April 1917. There are no specimens of *C. florinda* in the Australian National Insect Collection (ANIC) from south of the Hunter Valley (E.D. Edwards, pers. comm.).

On 29 February 2008, I collected four males of *C. f. halys* at Lower Portland on the Hawksbury River, a location some 40 km north of Windsor, NSW. On 1 April 2008, I collected two males at Ryde (a Sydney suburb). This species also has been seen at Avalon, NSW each year since the mid 1990s and before 1992 at Glenbrook in the Blue Mountains (B. Hacobian pers. comm.).

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